

Socially Disadvantaged Groups Grant

What does this program do?

The Socially Disadvantaged Groups Grant (SDGG) provides technical assistance to socially disadvantaged groups through rural cooperatives and Cooperative Development Centers. Invitations to apply are published each fiscal year in a Notice of Funding Opportunity (NOFO) in the *Federal Register* (available at this link: [federalregister.gov/](https://www.federalregister.gov/)) and posted to the federal Grants.gov website at this link: [grants.gov](https://www.grants.gov).

Who can apply?

Cooperative Development Centers, individual cooperatives, and groups of cooperatives (of which a majority of the board of directors or governing board is comprised of members of socially disadvantaged groups) are eligible to apply for the SDGG.

How can funds be used?

Grant funds must be used to provide technical assistance to socially disadvantaged groups in rural areas. Examples of technical assistance include:

- Feasibility studies
- Business plans
- Strategic planning
- Leadership training

How is “socially disadvantaged” defined?

The term “socially disadvantaged” can encompass such distinguishing features as race, ethnic origin, gender, or other features not common to people who are not socially disadvantaged.

What are some of the grant terms?

- The maximum grant award is \$175,000.
- There is no matching funds requirement.

How do we get started?

Before you apply, you must register your organization in the System for Award Management (SAM - at this link: sam.gov/content/home).

Once registered, you will be assigned a Unique Entity ID (UEI - formerly known as “DUNS”). You will need this information in order to complete your application.

Please check the SDGG program webpage (available at this link: tinyurl.com/RBCSSDGG) to ensure you have the most recent program information before you apply.

Who can answer questions?

Contact your local USDA RD state office for assistance. A list is available at this link: tinyurl.com/RDStateOffices.

What governs this program?

- The Consolidated Farm and Rural Development Act (available at tinyurl.com/7USC1932e11)
- Public Law 118-42, Division B, Section 736 (Consolidated Appropriations Act of 2024 - available at tinyurl.com/PL118-42)

NOTE: Because information changes, always consult official program instructions or contact your local Rural Development office for help. A list is available at this link: tinyurl.com/RDStateOffices. You will find additional resources, forms, and program information at rd.usda.gov. USDA is an equal opportunity provider, employer, and lender.

Last revised May 2024